

39117

Department of State

TELEGRAM

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEM BY 15

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CABLE NO. 141110 - CABLE NO. 141110 ONLY DCI, D/DCI, EX/DIR, NIPE,

ADDP, PLC, C/AF, C/CA

SECRET

HCG524

PAGE 01 ADDIS 01207 281359Z

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 L-02 AF-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 H-01
RSR-01 RSC-01 /034 W

099846

P R 281200Z MAR 70
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2727
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
CINCSTRIKE

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 01207

LIMDIS

PM RE PINCUS/PAUL

SUBJECT PINCUS/PAUL VISIT ASMARA

1. ASMARA 177 GIVING SUMMARY KAGNEW AND CONGEN SESSIONS
BEING REPEATED SEPARATELY AS ADDIS 1206.

2. WOULD EMPHASIZE SIGNIFICANCE LONG SERIES QUESTIONS POSED BY
PINCUS/PAUL DURING BOTH SESSIONS RE MAKE-UP OF ELF,
DIRECTION ELF STRENGTH TRENDS, HISTORICAL EVOLUTION ELF
AND ERITREAN NATIONALISM, EXTENT TO WHICH ELF CAN MAKE
WEIGHT FELT IN ERITREA. (VISIT COINCIDED WITH NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC KIDNAPPING WHICH WAS FULLY DESCRIBED IN ADDIS
TO PINCUS/PAUL, TO AVOID CHARGES OF ATTEMPTED CONCEALMENT
WHEN THEY LEARNED OF STORY EITHER HERE OR IN US. FOCUSED IN
PARTICULAR ON US POSTURE VIS-A-VIS ELF. THIS WAS
CONSISTENTLY DESCRIBED IN BOTH ADDIS AND ASMARA
BRIEFINGS AS ONE OF NON-INVOLVEMENT NOTING EXTRA CARE EXERCISED
AVOID IDENTIFYING US MILITARY IN ANY
WAY WITH IEG COUNTER-ELF OPERATIONS (OR COUNTER-
DISSIDENT ACTIVITY IN BALE). THIS POSTURE CONTINUES BE
ACCEPTED BY BOTH IEG AND AIC DESPITE DAMASCUS STATEMENTS.

3. PINCUS/PAUL
ASKED WHAT ARMS USED AGAINST ELF. WERE

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 01207 281359Z
INFORMED 2ND DIV. ARMED WITH M-1 RIFLES, COMMANDOS
POLICE WITH ISRAELI MACHINE GUNS,
M-1 CARBINES, POLICE
USED MAINLY GERMAN VEHICLES.

4. INQUIRIES RE AIRCRAFT USE AGAINST ELF SUBJECT SEPTEL.
NOTE HERE HOWEVER REPEATED QUESTION WHETHER US FURNISHING
POL ANSWER: NO) OR OTHER CONSUMABLES (ANSWS: TRAINING
AND WR AMMO ONLY) TO IEG FORCES.

5. BASIC PROBLEM APPEARS TO BE UNWILLINGNESS ACCEPT
TRUTHFULNESS OF STATEMENTS BY AMBASSADOR, DCM, CONSUL
GENERAL IN LIGHT STAFF DESIRE CONSTRUCT IMAGE US RELATIONS
TO IEG IDENTICAL THOSE US AND VIETNAM, LAOS, THAILAND.
HOPEFULLY STAFF WILL BE MORE INCLINED ACCEPT CREDIBILITY
DEPARTMENT WITNESSES.
HALL

SECRET